

# **Eighteenth Judicial Circuit**

(DuPage County)

## **Arbitration Program Information**

The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is a suburban jurisdiction serving the residents of DuPage County. Court-annexed arbitration has become an important resource for assisting the judicial system in the adjudication of civil matters. The Supreme Court approved an arbitration program for the circuit in December 1988. During State Fiscal Year 2002, the Supreme Court authorized DuPage County's arbitration program to permanently operate at the \$50,000 jurisdictional limit. A supervising judge oversees arbitration matters and is assisted by arbitration program staff.

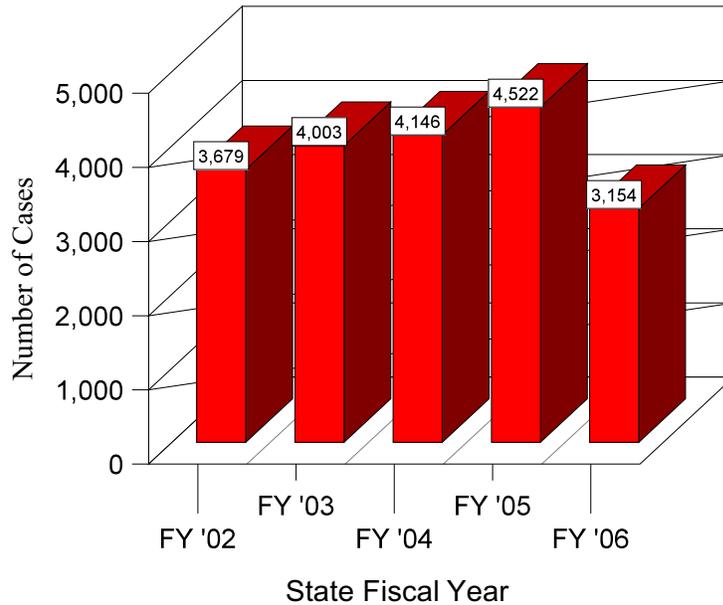
## **DATA PROFILES**

### **DuPage County**

Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

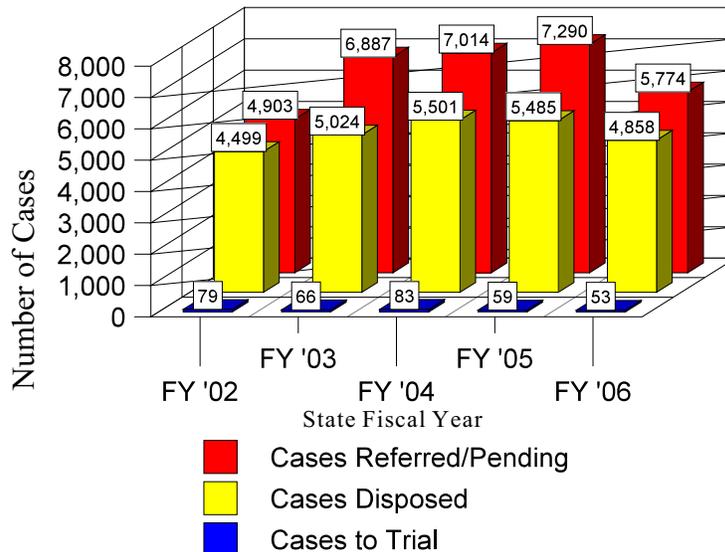
<b>State Fiscal Year 2006 DuPage County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information</b>	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	5,774
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed . . . . .	4,911
Number of Cases Pending . . . . .	863
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	431
Number of Awards . . . . .	99
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	244
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	53

### DuPage County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to DuPage County's arbitration program have increased annually, until 2006. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be directly attributable to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 which indirectly removed some cases from mandatory arbitration. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 3,901 cases have been referred to arbitration.

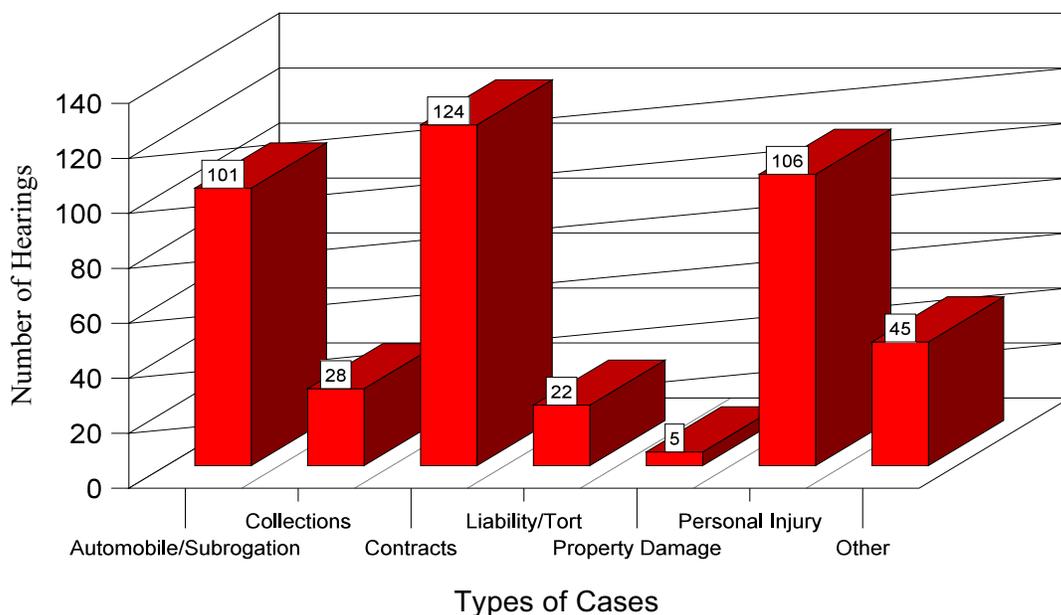
### DuPage County Five-Year Disposition Trend



The chart above presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which yielded either a disposition or, ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 84% (4,858 of 5,774 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the DuPage County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 80% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In DuPage County, less than 1% of cases (53 of the 5,774) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

**DuPage County**  
Types of Cases that Proceeded to Hearing



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that contract cases account for a majority (28%) of the arbitration hearings in DuPage County.

**DuPage County**  
**Average Award for Arbitration Hearing and**  
**Average Age (Number of Days) Pending in**  
**Arbitration System by Case Type**

<b><i>Case Type</i></b>	<b><i>Average Award</i></b>	<b><i>Average Age (Days)</i></b>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$9,723	275
Collections	\$13,284	359
Contracts	\$16,196	326
Liability/Torts	\$9,422	254
Property Damage	\$7,994	250
Personal Injury	\$12,892	258
Other	\$10,487	347

The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 297 days.